RASL
No. 8
JEFF SMITH

RASL

BY JEFF SMITH

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RASL
CHAPTER EIGHT
NUNCA ES TARDE PARA ARREGLARLO.
SIEMPRE HE CREÍDO ESO.
AUNQUE NO LO DICES EN SERIO.
SÓLO PARCHEAS LAS COSAS PARA SEGUIR HACIENDO EXACTAMENTE LO QUE ESTÉS HACIENDO.
¿QUÉ ESTÁS DICIENDO?

SI QUISIERAS ARREGLAR LAS COSAS ENTRE TÚ Y TU COMPA-ÑERO HUBIERAS DEJADO DE DORMIR CON SU ESPOSA.
ANNIE . . .
TAL VEZ NO PUEDAS ARREGLARLO, PERO PUEDES HACER LO CORRECTO
Y NO CONFIO EN ESA MAYA.
ELLA QUIERE ALGO.
PERO ESO NO TE DETENDRÁ. CORRERÁS A SUS BRAZOS A LA MÍNIMA OPORTUNIDAD.
TENÍAS RAZÓN, ANNIE.
LO HICE.

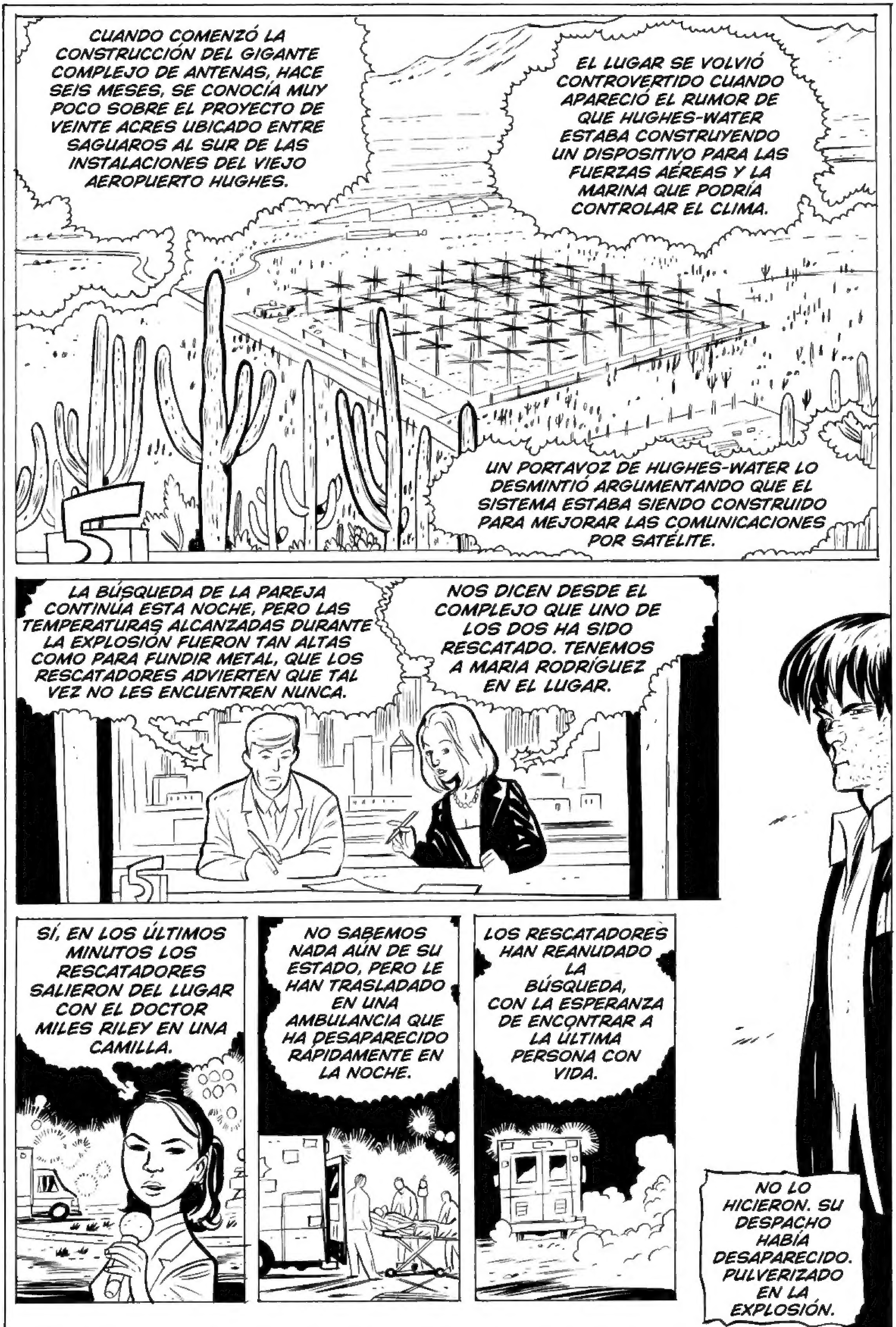
MAYA - -
ROB... TE QUIERO TANTO.
¿QUÉ?
¿QUÉ PASA?
NO CREO QUE PODAMOS SEGUIR ASÍ MUCHO MÁS.
¿A QUÉ TE REFIERES?
DEBEMOS DEJAR DE VERNOS... O DECÍRSELO A MILES.
¿QUIERES DISCUTIRLO AHORA?
¿Y NUESTRO TRABAJO?
ESTAMOS TAN CERCA DE UN GRAN AVANCE.
LOS TRES.

SÍ, HE DICHO LOS TRES.
ME SIENTO COMO LA UNIÓN ENTRE DOS GENIOS CIENTÍFICOS-- ¡AYUDÁNDOOS A IR MÁS LEJOS!
NO ME MIRES ASÍ.
¿ME AMAS?
SÉ QUE ES ASÍ.
¡MILES TAMBIÉN!
¡LA ENERGÍA QUE ARDE ENTRE NOSOTROS TRES ES MÁS BRILLANTE CADA DÍA! ¡NO PODEMOS ARRIESGARLA!
NUESTRO TRABAJO EN EL COMPUESTO DE TESLA ES DEMASIADO IMPORTANTE.
MANTENER NUESTRO AMOR EN SECRETO ES DIFÍCIL, ¡PERO ESTAMOS VIVIENDO LA VIDA AL MÁXIMO! AL LÍMITE -- UN ROMANCE A VELOCIDAD LUZ...
CREO QUE MILES YA SOSPECHA.

DÉJAME MANEJAR A MILES.
¿LE HAS DICHO ALGO YA A MILES SOBRE LOS DIARIOS DE TESLA?
NO. ME TEMO QUE LOS DEVOLVERÍA AL COMPLEJO.
¿DE VERÁS CREES QUE LO HARÍA?
NO. PUEDE... NO AYUDA EL QUE ÉL Y YO LUCHEMOS SOBRE EL PROYECTO ST. GEORGE...
Y CLARAMENTE NO AYUDARÍA SI EMPEZAMOS A PELEAR POR TÍ.
DESEARÍA QUE ME DEJARAS VER ESOS DIARIOS.
¿DÓNDE ESTÁN...?
¿LOS TIENES AQUÍ EN TU APARTAMENTO?
PACIENCIA, CARI. LOS COMPARTIRÉ PRONTO.

HAY UN PAR DE SECCIONES QUE QUIERO REVISAR PRIMERO.
¿MIS LLAVES?
PERO NO ME...
DEBERÍAS COGER TUS COSAS DEL BAÑO.
ROB, NO. . .
HASTA TERMINAR NUESTRO TRABAJO TENEMOS QUE DEJAR DE VERNOS.
POR FAVOR, NO. NO PUEDO ESTAR LEJOS DE TÍ...
TRATA DE SER FUERTE.
NO LO HAGAS POR MÍ.
HAZLO POR LA CIENCIA.
¿QUÉ?

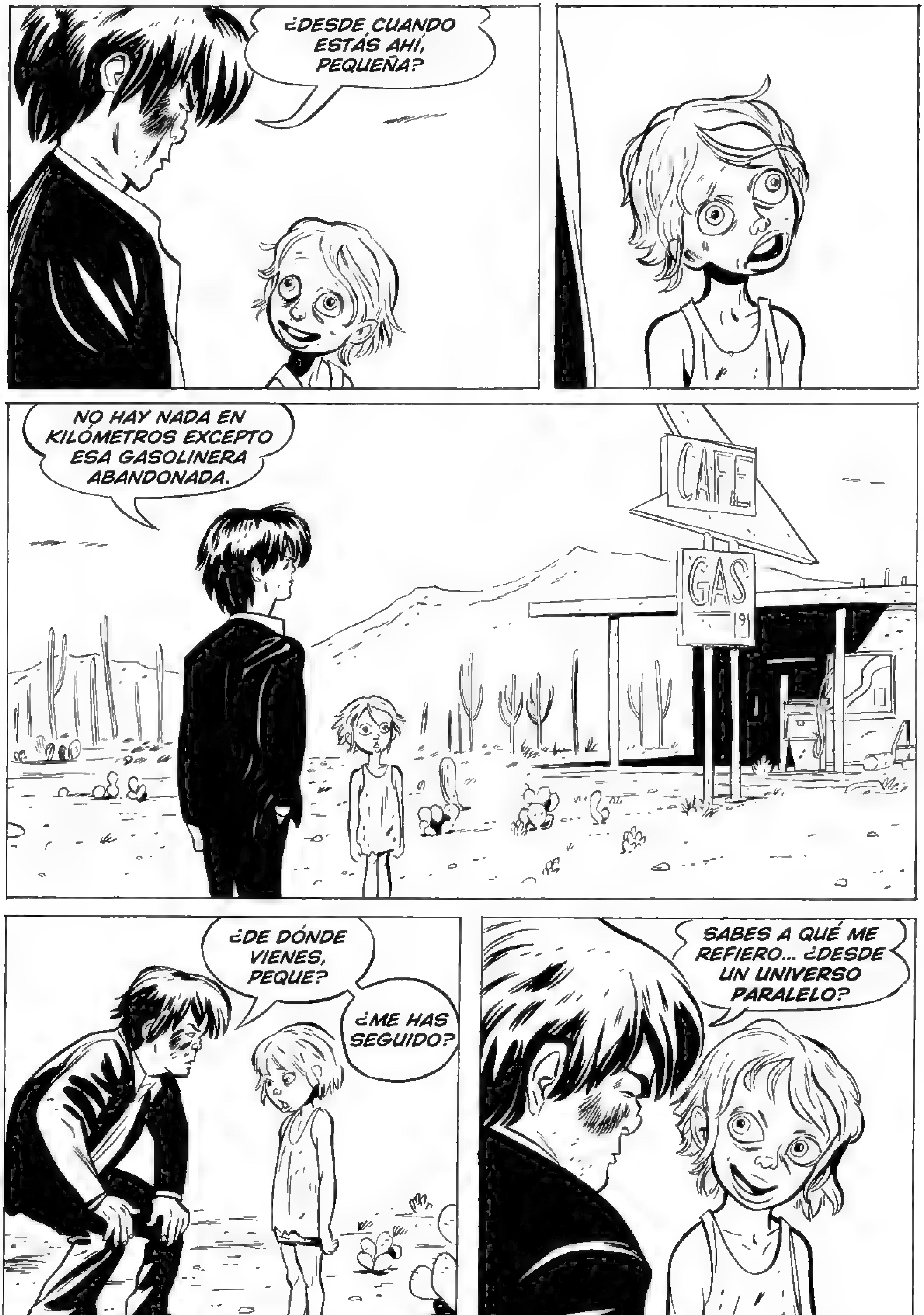
ESTA TARDE HABLARÉ CON MILES SOBRE LOS DIARIOS PERDIDOS DE TESLA.
ESTABA ENFADADO, Y TENÍA QUE HACERSE, PERO SINCERAMENTE NO SABÍA SI IBA TENER LA FUERZA PARA RESISTIRME A ELLA.
SLAM!
AL FINAL, MAYA Y YO NO ÍBAMOS A VOLVER A ESTAR SOLOS DE NUEVO.
NO PORQUE NO QUISIÉRAMOS...SINO PORQUE EL DESASTRE ESTABA MÁS CERCA DE LO QUE PENSÁBAMOS.
LA EXPLOSIÓN DE HOY EN EL CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN HUGHES-WATER REVENTÓ LAS VENTANAS DEL AEROPUERTO Y SE SINTIÓ INCLUSO EN LA CIUDAD.
5
ST. GEORGE EXPLOSION
AL PRINCIPIO SE TEMÍA QUE LOS DOCE EMPLEADOS QUE TRABAJAN EN EL LUGAR DEL DESIERTO CONOCIDO COMO LA INSTALACIÓN ST. GEORGE HABÍAN MUERTO...
...PERO PARA LAS CINCO LOS RESCATADORES YA HAN LOCALIZADO A DIEZ MIEMBROS DEL EQUIPO INVESTIGADOR EN LOS REFORZADOS LABORATORIOS DEL SUBSUELO.
AÚN FALTAN LOS DOS LÍDERES DEL EQUIPO, SR. Y SRA. MILES RILEY.



CUANDO COMENZÓ LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DEL GIGANTE COMPLEJO DE ANTENAS, HACE SEIS MESES, SE CONOCÍA MUY POCO SOBRE EL PROYECTO DE VEINTE ACRES UBICADO ENTRE SAGUAROS AL SUR DE LAS INSTALACIONES DEL VIEJO AEROPUERTO HUGHES.
EL LUGAR SE VOLVIÓ CONTROVERTIDO CUANDO APARECIÓ EL RUMOR DE QUE HUGHES-WATER ESTABA CONSTRUYENDO UN DISPOSITIVO PARA LAS FUERZAS AÉREAS Y LA MARINA QUE PODRÍA CONTROLAR EL CLIMA.
UN PORTAVOZ DE HUGHES-WATER LO DESMINTIÓ ARGUMENTANDO QUE EL SISTEMA ESTABA SIENDO CONSTRUIDO PARA MEJORAR LAS COMUNICACIONES POR SATÉLITE.
LA BÚSQUEDA DE LA PAREJA CONTINÚA ESTA NOCHE, PERO LAS TEMPERATURAS ALCANZADAS DURANTE LA EXPLOSIÓN FUERON TAN ALTAS COMO PARA FUNDIR METAL, QUE LOS RESCATADORES ADVIERTEN QUE TAL VEZ NO LES ENCUENTREN NUNCA.
NOS DICEN DESDE EL COMPLEJO QUE UNO DE LOS DOS HA SIDO RESCATADO. TENEMOS A MARIA RODRÍGUEZ EN EL LUGAR.
SÍ, EN LOS ÚLTIMOS MINUTOS LOS RESCATADORES SALIERON DEL LUGAR CON EL DOCTOR MILES RILEY EN UNA CAMILLA.
NO SABEMOS NADA AÚN DE SU ESTADO, PERO LE HAN TRASLADADO EN UNA AMBULANCIA QUE HA DESAPARECIDO RÁPIDAMENTE EN LA NOCHE.
LOS RESCATADORES HAN REANUDADO LA BÚSQUEDA, CON LA ESPERANZA DE ENCONTRAR A LA ÚLTIMA PERSONA CON VIDA.
NO LO HICIERON. SU DESPACHO HABÍA DESAPARECIDO. PULVERIZADO EN LA EXPLOSIÓN.

AHORA, DOS AÑOS DESPÚES, LOS BASTARDOS ESTÁN RECONSTRUYENDO EL MALDITO SISTEMA...
ESPERA UN MINUTO...
HAY ALGUIEN DETRÁS MÍO...

¡TÚ, OTRA VEZ!

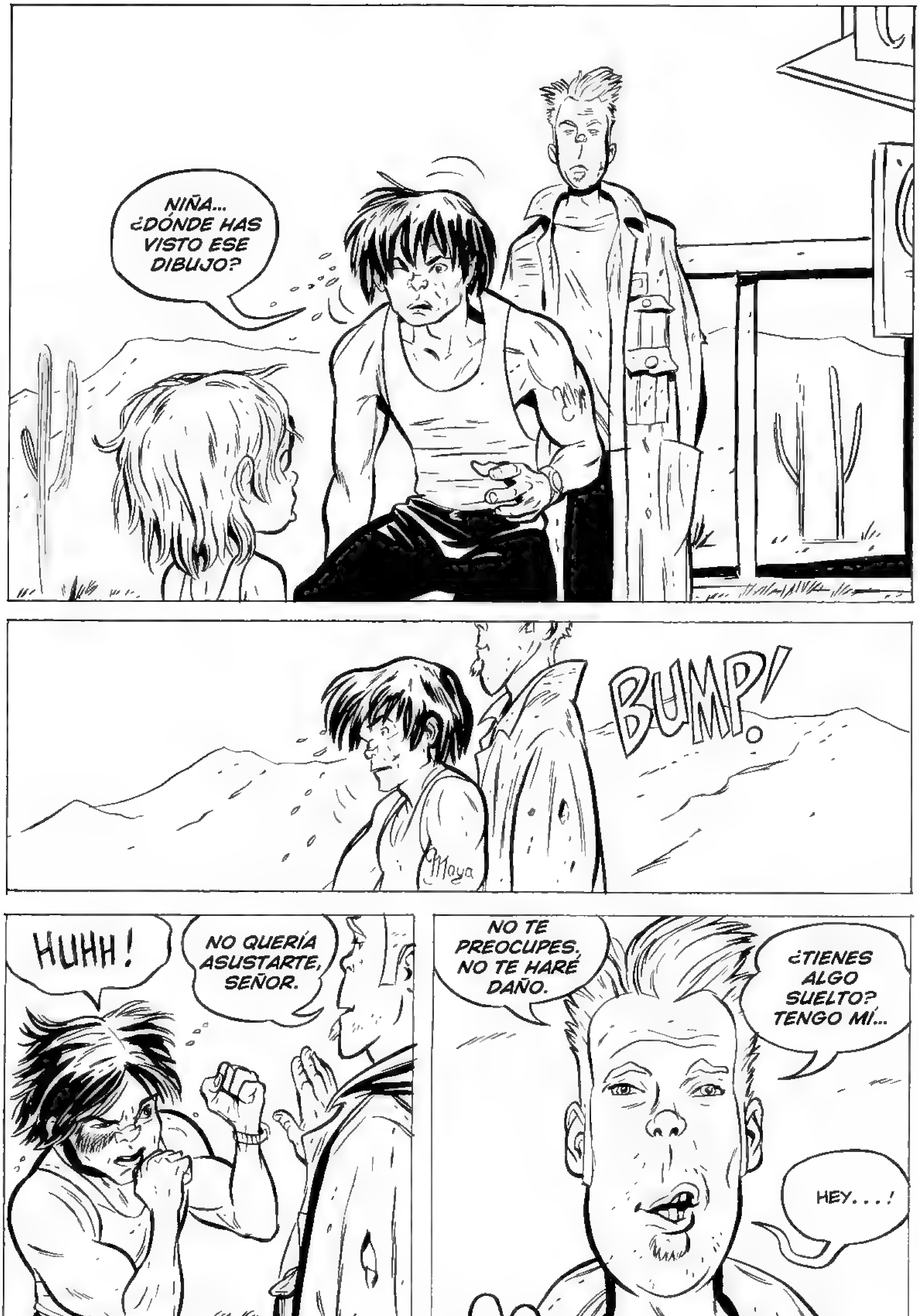

¿DESDE CUANDO ESTÁS AHÍ, PEQUEÑA?
NO HAY NADA EN KILÓMETROS EXCEPTO ESA GASOLINERA ABANDONADA.
CAFE
GAS
¿DE DÓNDE VIENES, PEQUE?
¿ME HAS SEGUIDO?
SABES A QUÉ ME REFIERO... ¿DESDE UN UNIVERSO PARALELO?

WAP!
¿QUÉ?
SLAP!
¡HEY! ¿QUÉ QUIERES?
WAP! WAP! WAP!
TUG! PULL!
WAP!
!
WAP!
BIEN, BIEN... AQUÍ...
¡TE DOY LA CHAQUETA!
CAFE
GAS

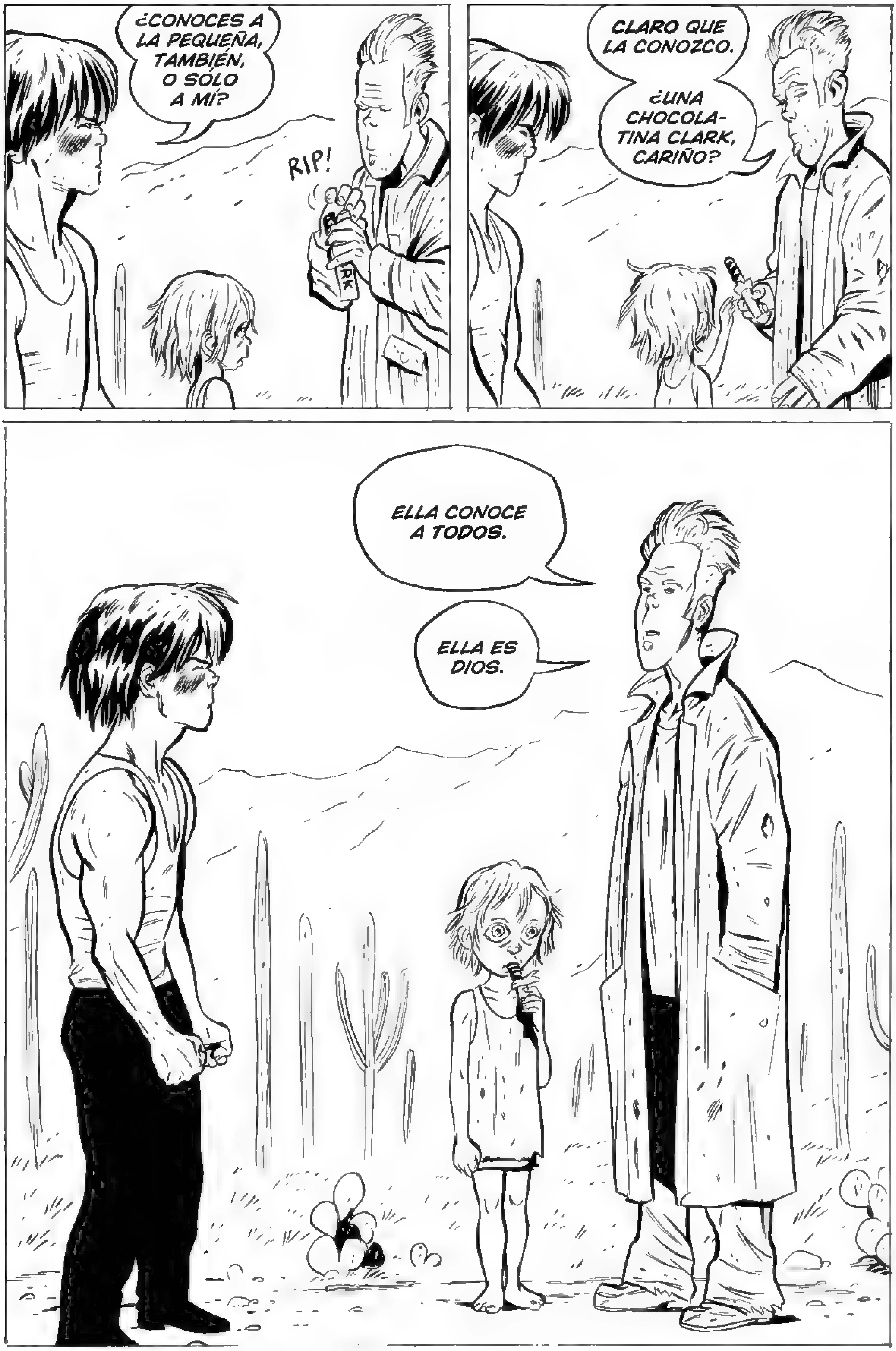
TOMA.
¿NO LA QUIERES?
¿AHORA QUÉ?
PAT! PAT! PAT!
¿QUIERES LA CAMISA?
ESPERA... LA VAS A ROMPER.

¿HAS TACHADO EL NOMBRE DE MAYA?
¿POR QUÉ? ¿PORQUE ESTÁ MUERTA?

JESUS.


NIÑA... ¿DÓNDE HAS VISTO ESE DIBUJO?
BUMP!
Moya
HUHH!
NO QUERÍA ASUSTARTE, SEÑOR.
NO TE PREOCUPES, NO TE HARÉ DAÑO.
¿TIENES ALGO SUELTO? TENGO MI...
HEY...!

¡TE CONOZCO!
NO LO CREO.
SÍ, ESTOY SINTIENDO ALGO AQUÍ.
¡VAMOS! ¡RECUERDA! ¡SOY EL PRESIDENTE!
SÍ, SÍ. NOS CONOCEMOS TIO.
¡CREO QUE ME DISTE DINERO!
VALE. EN ESTA TIERRA NO, AMIGO-- CRÉEME. LO DIGO EN SERIO.
¡LO TENGO! ¡ME DISTE 40 PAVOS, Y TE ENCONTRÉ UN JEEP CON LAS LLAVES DENTRO!
¿QUÉ?
¿VERDAD?
¡TE DIJE QUE PUEDO SENTIR COSAS!
ESO ES IMPOSIBLE.
TE DÍ EL DINERO, PERO FUE EN OTRO UNIVERSO.
¿QUÉ DEMONIOS ESTÁ PASANDO AQUÍ?


¿CONOCES A LA PEQUEÑA, TAMBIÉN, O SOLO A MÍ?
RIP!
CLARO QUE LA CONOZCO.
¿UNA CHOCOLA-TINA CLARK, CARIÑO?
ELLA CONOCE A TODOS.
ELLA ES DIOS.

RASLetters

Welcome back to another issue of RASL. We have a lot of great letters this time, so let's get started...

Jeff,

I've been a fan of your work for many years, gifting copies of BONE to family and friends every chance I get. It's always such a delight to introduce someone to BONE and see them fall in love with it as I did myself. It's been particularly fun reading it each night to my 5 year old son (who loves it).

Now I'm getting to fall in love with a series again myself, with RASL. It's a fascinating story with beautiful art, and I can't wait to see where it goes.

Your story incorporates historical figures and events, some of which have been the subject of wild speculation. I'm curious, to what extent do you believe there is truth in the stories of Tesla, Tunguska, the naval incident, etc.? Do you find it a challenge to blur factual history into fantastic fiction, that it constrains you in any way?

— Eric Mee
via RASL@boneville.com

I think there is some truth in those stories, certainly enough to blur them, as you say, into a science fiction comic book story. Finding real facts behind the connections between these events and people is a lot of the fun behind a project like this. I did my best to pull the most realistic, and factual version together. That said, I don't believe in dragons, but I didn't let it stop me from having fun writing BONE!

Hello Jeff,

You may remember me from the San Diego Comic-Con a few years back. I had the life-size Fone Bone Puppet and my then-girlfriend, now-wife, was dressed as Thorn. But I'm writing today to talk about RASL.

I've been loving this ride. The frustrated, nearly broken, but still decent RASL is a fascinating character and that little girl is at once quite creepy and yet oddly comforting. I loved the full page last panel of issue 7, it captures a lot of what I love about the series.

But I'm really writing to explain my astonishment with the images and ideas in this book. It is not that the sci-fi premise is far-fetched. Quite the contrary, it seems so probable to me because I have been hearing versions of the back story from members of my family for as long as I can remember. My father is a huge Tesla fan and loves to point out that Edison's direct current got people killed and that Tesla was the one who made electricity safe for the 20th century and yet everyone knows Edison and only a handful know Tesla. That alone is a pretty cool connection between family and comic and was enough to get my father interested in RASL. But it doesn't stop there. My grandmother on my mother's side often used to regale me with stories of secret navy experiments conducted with Einstein during WWII which could make entire battleships disappear. She explained that there are photos somewhere of sailors standing on seemingly nothing in the middle of the ocean but these have been confiscated by the government. And there you are tying these strange characters and events together. So, of course, I had to show the comics to her too, and she loved them. It's almost as if my family has been getting me ready to really enjoy your work. Now I have to go see if either of them has anything to say about the Tunguska event.

Your use of bizarre science and history has managed to capture three generations of my family and, believe me, this is a remarkable accomplishment. Now I can't wait to see if Tesla's secret journals (and our hero) will fall into the hands of unscrupulous types. Thanks for RASL, Jeff, and keep up your wonderful work.

Yours,

— Christopher
via RASL@boneville.com

I like your family! And congratulations on getting married to Thorn. I bet there are more than a few BONE readers out there who would like your ending better than the one in the book!

Hey Mr. Smith -

I was just listening to the Peter Jaffe podcast interview dated from back at RASL #1. Wanted to check in and say I've been quite enjoying RASL.

You mentioned I think that Phoney Bone seemed to be readers' favorite character in BONE; he certainly wasn't for me. He seemed predictable enough and I wished he would go away.

Part of the interest for you in RASL was writing a scoundrel. I'm having a hard time thinking of RASL as a total scoundrel though. Yeah, he drinks and smokes and steals... But why did he sabotage St. George? Was it for his own monetary gain? RASL claims no, if we can trust him. Anyway, he's a sympathetic character scoudrel or no, and one I'm interested in following the adventures of. I really enjoy how much information is missing, and how you have to keep reading to watch the puzzle slowly fit together.

Definitely enjoyed reading about Tunguska, and then going to Wikipedia to find that it was a real event, and then putting in Tunguska and Tesla to see a few people on the internet drawing the (unlikely) link between them. Interesting National Geographic article on multiverses linked from your site, it makes me wonder why more people aren't writing comics that play with all this unbelievable new science theory material.

Not sure if you're tired of writing RASL yet, but I hope not; I'd be happy if it goes on at this pace for a number of additional years.

— Stefan
via RASL@boneville.com

P.S. - I look forward to tracking down Little Mouse Gets Ready. I've got a bunch of the Françoise Mouly published books.

I agree. What real scientists actually think is way crazier than what we writers can come up with! For anyone who is interested, here are those links to articles about the recent discovery of real parallel universes:

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/11/081105-dark-flow.html

http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/04/05/freaky-physics-proves-parallel-universes/

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/03/100322-dark-flow-matter-outside-universe-multiverse

Hi Jeff,

I love that the we are getting more pieces of the RASL mystery. I didn't hear about the series until the third issue, but quickly tracked down the first two issues. I love the story and that you weave into it so much science and history. Some of favorite historical fiction (like Caleb Carr's *The Alienist* and *The Angel of Darkness*) capture the seem feeling of dramatic change and possibility that science fiction does. There are some great mysteries at the heart of RASL and I can't wait to learn more.

I haven't had a chance to say this before, so I would like you to know: I love BONE! I almost gave up on comics in the 90s. BONE was one of a small number of titles that kept me invested not only because they were brilliant but because they had a strong personal vision. Some of the others were *Bacchus*, *Cerebus*, *Concrete*, *From Hell*, *Groo*, *Hate*, *Kane*, *Madman*, *Peepshow*, *Strangers in Paradise*, Don Rosa's *Uncle Scrooge*, and some of the Vertigo titles. (On a related note, at the same time I started reading RASL, I was surprised to pick up Terry Moore's new series, *Echo*, and discover that another of my favorite comic creators had launched a science fiction series with historical allusions.)

Last summer, I became a father. Like many fathers/comic fans, I've been thinking about comics that meant a lot to me that I could share with my daughter. BONE came immediately to mind. I was delighted to discover that BONE has been released in beautiful collections. I can't wait to relive these stories with her. Is it true that some new stories are in the works? That would be fantastic!

Of course, I also love that RASL is so completely different than BONE. It's exciting to discover that a storyteller I am so familiar with has the ability to surprise me as a reader. Having said that, the thing that RASL has in common with BONE is that it's becoming deeper and richer with each issue.

Thanks for the great stories!

— Dave Anderson
via RASL@boneville.com

P.S. My daughter has her first birthday this summer. If you decide to run this letter, then: ***"Daddy wishes you a very happy birthday, Zara!"***

Most of the books you mention were also my favorites, and were done by my friends. What a great time in comics that was. Terry's Echo is one of the best comics being done right now, and if you are enjoying RASL, go out and pick it up if you haven't already!

Dear Jeff,

I am writing you for the sole purpose of conveying to you that when RASL said, *"I see.* ***he*** *thinks they're abominations, and you think they're* ***enemies****. Well, that's your job, and Sal's a dick..."* it was totally bad ass.

Sincerely,

— Will Stryker
via RASL@boneville.com

Thank you, Will.

Hey there Jeff -

Just finished RASL Volume 2 graphic novel and I love the way you put a story together. Stupid question... Do you ever think of a soundtrack to your work? I had trouble with this volume of material.

— Jason Warzecha
via boneville.com

I don't really picture a movie soundtrack for it, exactly, but I can tell you what I was listening to while writing it: Chihei Hatakeyama's Minima Moralia, Carbon Based Lifeforms' Hydroponic Garden, Bob Dylan's Modern Times, and as I write this...Pink Floyd's Wish You Were Here - - really, really loud at midnight.

Hey there Jeff -

I was a BONE fan years ago, but fell off reading it for a few years (during lean times) and then waited until the collected volume came out so I could find out how it ended in one nice long sitting. I grabbed the leatherbound version of the book, and it has a place of pride on the top shelf of my collection.

I also chased down *Monster Society of Evil* to see where you took *Shazam*, and thoroughly enjoyed your take on it.

Now I'm absolutely delighted that you're doing another book. And one featuring the science of Tesla, no less! I've also got a couple of questions for you, if I can be so bold?

Do we find out at some point why he's referred to as RASL instead of Rob? Is it an acronym of some sort?

And what's the scope of the book - are you thinking as many issues as BONE? Have you plotted out where it's going at issue 75, or is it more fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants and see where the characters take you each month?

Keep up the great work - I'm exceedingly happy you're doing a regular book again, and race to the local comic store each time a new issue comes in!

— Adam Cooper
Melbourne, Australia
via RASL@boneville.com

Dear Jeff,

You already know that Fone has visited many different countries, in 2 dimensional form of course but also now as a full-fledged individual (although I must admit that I'm still doing most of the conversation), but I nevertheless wanted to tell you that he was doing perfectly fine in Lyons, France, as you can see on the photograph.

I discovered BONE more than ten years ago in the French collected editions, and I then followed closely the last issues in English. I enjoyed so many things about BONE, and it would be fruitless to try to give a detail account of all the reasons for that. With this picture, I mostly wanted to convey the idea that, although I am now 25, BONE is still making me feel like a real fan boy; this is one of the many reasons why I like this book so much.

We took the photograph so that the basilisk of Fourvière can be seen, as it is the most iconic sight in the city. Anyone who has been in Lyons would recognise it, and it may actually be true for you. I will still be in Lyons for a year, but there is no doubt that I will take Fone along for my next move, which will most probably take me to another country.

After enjoying your *Shazam* story, I am now eagerly waiting for each issue of RASL. I really like its scientific ingredients (I should probably say pseudo-scientific, but otherwise where would the fun be?). As a grad student in chemical physics, I loved seeing Tesla's equations on the inside cover.

Kind regards,

— Jean-Nicolas
via RASL@boneville.com

I have been in Lyon, but it's been a while now. Until I can get back there, I'm glad Fone is able to go in my place. That equation you refer to is Maxwell's equation uniting magnetism and electricity - - one of my favorite discoveries as I researched this story.

Thanks for your letters, everyone!
See you in a couple of months!

J.

TO BE CONTINUED IN RASL #9
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